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TO : Department of State

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USMTM AIR FORCE SECTION USMTM ARMY SECTION/AN

DEPT PASS: See list on page four

FROM : Amembassy JIDDA

SUBJECT: Joint Weeka No. 32

REF :

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POLITICAL/ECONOMIC

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2. Agricultural Advisors Requested by SAG. Agricultural Minister Hassan al-MISHARI has called on the Ambassador with an informal request that the United States Government provide four advisors, at USG expense, to assist in starting his Ministry's sweeping new agricultural program. He hoped they could remain in Saudi Arabia one full year, and preferably two. (CONFIDENTIAL)

Comment: The Embassy feels that getting the agricultural programs started on a sound basis is of great importance to the future of Saudi Arabia. Extending modest technical assistance of this sort would yield maximum benefits in good will for the United States, as well as in Saudi development progress, and be a likely stimulus to increased sales of American agricultural equipment. (CONFIDENTIAL)

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3. Saudi Concern Over Aramco Production Lags. The Arabian American Oil Company's recent relative decline in production, as compared to dramatic increases registered by other gulf area companies, has caused considerable concern in SAG circles. Aramco's explanation that the Japanese-owned Arabian Oil Company's increased sales to Japan are cutting into Aramco's market is likely to go unheeded. (CONFIDENTIAL)

4. UK Advisors to Saudi Airlines Undermine TWA Position. American employees of Saudi Arabian Airlines (SDI) have been complaining increasingly of interference by the representatives of the British consultant firm Curtis, Greensted Associates, Ltd., which hold a contract as advisor to the Airlines. (

American pilots, engineers and technicians have been leaving SDI because the salary scale is no longer competitive, and it is feared that SDI operations will have to be sharply curtailed if British objections to the proposed new scale are not overcome soon. In the event that more Americans leave the Airlines, forcing reduction of services, it will probably be the top American employees who get the blame. The senior American, TWA's Morten S. BEYER, finds the situation intolerable, and has prepared a memorandum with the Ambassador's concurrence, for the Saudi Director General of the Airlines to pass to Prince Sultan, the Minister.

(CONFIDENTIAL)

The Minister has reopened the subject of a possible complete management contract for TWA with SDI, and TWA expects to submit a proposal to him about September 15. (CONFIDENTIAL)

Comment: The Embassy believes that a full management contract for TWA, giving it responsibility for operations and training, would make a great improvement over the present situation, wherein divided counsels hamper progress.

Prince Sultan, who has not in the past taken too active a role in SDI affairs, has been drawn into the picture by feuding between Saudi members of the airlines corporation. If he takes to the TWA proposal to be presented, this may prove to be the basis for establishing sound direction of Saudi Airlines' affairs.

(CONFIDENTIAL)

MILITARY

1. Visit of USS MITSCHER. Destroyer Leader USS MITSCHER visited Jidda August 15-18. During its stay here the Embassy was able to arrange a tour of the

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ship by Saudi Boy Scouts who had just returned to Jidda after their annual jamboree in the summer capital of Taif. The ship also took Saudi guests on a six hour cruise which featured a fire power demonstration. In drawing up its guest list the Embassy concentrated on inviting Saudi youth from the junior military ranks of the Army and Air Force as well as some from the Jidda Boy Scout contingent. The ship's complement quickly established an excellent rapport with the junior Saudi officers and the ship's captain, Commander Joseph D. Usina, cemented friendship with the Boy Scouts by exchanging a plaque with the MITSCHER's emblem for one of their troop flags. (UNCLASSIFIED)

PSYCHOLOGICAL

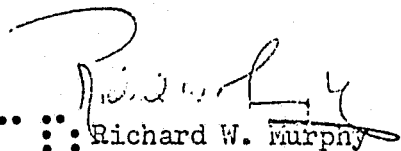
1. Saudi Girl to Study at U.S. University. Saudi citizen Miss Fatin Amin Shaker has been awarded a scholarship for study at Texas Womens University in Denton. The arrangements for Miss Shaker's study resulted from preliminary correspondence between Mrs. Hart and Miss Katie Louchheim as well as considerable follow-up effort on the part of the Cultural Affairs Section of the Department. Miss Shaker will be the first Saudi girl enrolled in an American post-graduate course of instruction in the U.S. Miss Shaker will be a candidate for a M.A. degree in Social Work at the Texas University. (There is apparently one Saudi girl already at an American university where she is enrolled as a pre-medical student).

On hearing of her acceptance by the University, Crown Prince Faysal asked Miss Shaker to Taif where he met with her and her father for over an hour. He praised her for her work and writing -- she has been employed in social work in Jidda since her graduation from college in the UAR, as well as working part-time as a broadcaster for women's programs over Radio Mecca. He discussed at length "very sensitive" matters concerning the advancement of Saudi women and concluded by warning Miss Shaker the whole country would be watching her progress in America. (CONFIDENTIAL)

Comment: The local press has not publicized her interview with Faysal although it has announced her plans to study in the U.S. This omission probably reflects the Crown Prince's sensitivity to the continued influence of conservative religious forces in the Kingdom. These forces have consistently opposed higher education for Saudi girls and hampered the Ministries of Education and Health in their efforts to provide scholarship assistance for these students. The Embassy anticipates it will be possible to generate considerable favorable publicity about Miss Shaker's work in the United States during the coming months. (CONFIDENTIAL)

For the Ambassador:

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Richard W. Murphy
Second Secretary of Embassy

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ADEN, ALMAN, ANKARA, BAGHDAD (2), BEIRUT, BEIRUT FOR MELG, BONNFOR CINCUSAFE, CAIRO, DAMASCUS, FRANKFURT FOR LINDSEY AIR STATION, ATTN: DSC INTELLIGENCE IDCA, HEADQUARTERS, USAREUR HEIDELBERG, KARACHI, KHARTOUM, KUWAIT, LONDON FOR CINCNELM, RABAT, TAIZ, TEHRAN, POLAD CINCSTRIKE/CINCCEAFSA

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